fulfilled the prescribed minimum requirements in terms of infrastructure and other facilities, the Medical Council of India recommended to the Central Government for recognition of the MBBS degree awarded to the students being trained in both these colleges by the concerned affiliating Universities.

(c) The Medical Council of India, with the approval of the Central Government, prescribes the minimum standards of medical education required for grant of both graduate and postgraduate medical qualifications by the Universities and medical institutions in the country. The Council conducts periodic inspections of the medical institutions for this purpose. It also takes necessary follow up action to ensure that the deficiencies pointed out in the inspection reports are rectified by the concerned medical institution.

Use of Red Cross symbol

†1506. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of Red Cross symbol in the country is punishable yet people are misusing it openly;

(b) whether Government would take or propose to take any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (d) Under Section 12 of Geneva Convention Act, 1960, misuse of Red Cross emblem is a punishable offence Section 17 of the Geneva Convention Act, 1960 provides that no court shall take cognizance of offences under this Act except on complaint by the Government or of such officer of the Government as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify. Government have not yet

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

come across any complaints of such nature. As and when such complaint(s) are brought to knowledge of the Government, appropriate action will be taken as per the provisions of the said Act.

Senior Citizens sick of Safdarjung OPD

1507. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Senior Citizens sick of Safdarjung OPD" which appeared in Delhi edition of The Statesman, dated the 31st January, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that senior citizens have to wait for longer period in various queues to get medical treatment;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the said report; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to mitigate their hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Separate queues are provided for senior citizens for availing of the appropriate treatment. An Additional Medical Superintendent has been designated exclusively to look after the OPD and for the welfare of the senior citizens. Besides, one senior doctor and a staff nurse is posted in the OPD for smooth management.

Malaria-prone pockets in the country

1508. SHRI MAN MOHAL SAMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of malaria deaths are rampant in some parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have identified those pockets which are malaria prone;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;